

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE



THE SPANISH WAR pursues its monotonous course of death and ruin. So far the hopes that General Franco had gained a sufficient superiority to bring the war to an end have not been fulfilled, and the battle on the Jarama sways to and fro. There is real danger of a prolongation of a struggle which is a curse and a disaster to Spain. Until lately there has been very little resemblance between this civil war and the Great War, the difference lying not merely in the numbers engaged but also in the methods employed. Spanish fighting, deadly though it could be, was amateurish, until trained foreigners found their way into the country. Guerrilla warfare is a Spanish speciality : it has the disadvantage of being protracted and the advantage of causing relatively less material damage. At the end of the 15th century Italy had developed an admirable system of warfare devised to cause the minimum of death and damage. The condottieri, mercenaries employed by the warring city states, fought one another with the strictest attention to the rules of the game. Battles were duly won and lost, but the object was not to kill but to hold to ransom. Alas ! this national mode of warfare was not allowed to spread throughout the world. France swept down with a thoroughly practical and ruthless army. Then the Spanish infantry were let loose, and the Italian peninsula became just such a battle-field as the Spanish peninsula nearly became to-day.

ABYSSINIA continues to remind this country of its follies. It was presumably a piece of officialdom that led to an invitation to the Coronation being sent to that non-existent Government, and there are signs that the authorities have already recognised the blunder. For now we hear of "a circular letter" dispatched to the accredited representative of an imaginary Ethopia, and there is almost a hint that he might have dropped it into the waste-paper basket along with those halfpenny stamped envelopes that we all know so well. At the present time we are pursuing a policy in which friendship with Italy plays an integral part, and pinpricks are nicely calculated to defeat our object. A gesture of this kind, if it was intended, could have no practical advantage whatsoever : it simply made the worst of both worlds. An invitation to the fallen Emperor to attend the Coronation could hardly be approved even by the most neurotic idealists whose eyes remain desperately shut against reality : for it is surely an insult to offer a man a show when you have urged him to a course that has lost him an Empire. On the other hand, Italy was bound to resent the implied suggestion that her sovereignty over Abyssinia is mythical. It is no excuse that this country has still not recognised *de jure* the Italian conquest. Practically, we did so long ago, and it is particularly desirable that we should continue our recognition at the present

time, for bomb-throwing in Addis Ababa is the last thing likely to favour that rule of law and order for which this country is supposed to stand.

PORTSMOUTH AIRPORT has raised no little controversy among the ratepayers concerned, but the City Council has now voted in favour of the scheme to convert Langstone harbour into an inland lake by barrages near Eastney and at Langstone. Technically the scheme appears sound. It is reasonable that the great naval harbour should also be a great air base. So progress goes its way. Yet some, perhaps, will lament the mudflats that are now to be dredged, where once a duck punt could wind its way through the channels in a world of peace and wild life. The curse of aviation lies heavy on the civilised world. Perhaps the time will come when an operation will be performed on all children to reduce their powers of hearing so that their nerves may be protected against the universal noise. Amplifiers will be provided for use when acute hearing is really necessary, at a concert, say, or in time of courtship. Where can a student find tranquillity and peace removed from the roar of aeroplane engines ? Apparently not at Oxford. More in sorrow than in anger, Lt.-Colonel Farquharson of Univ. writes of the evil fate that has fallen on the cloistered silence of the City of Spires. "The atmosphere throbs with the grinding throb of passing aeroplanes." Seven planes fly in formation between Magdalen and Merton towers. The labour of the lecturer is in vain and the deafened undergraduate fights a hopeless battle to pursue his studies to their proper end — a creditable degree.

LORD BADEN-POWELL, the Chief Scout, reached the age of 80 this week, and only those whose memories go back to Mafeking can realise that he is no longer young. His creation of the Scout organisation has been a genuine pioneer work, anticipating the "youth movements" now so popular in other countries. The improved health of the nation is largely due to "B.-P." and his innumerable supporters. We are not a C 3 nation — can we never get rid of that wretched phrase ? The present development of physical education, from which it would be a mistake to expect too much, is really an official recognition, according to the English tradition, of the voluntary effort of the founder of Boy Scouting. All will wish him as many more years as he wants. After all, in the happy phrase of Lord Ilkeston, he is only forty for the second time.

OLD SCHOOL TIES have become a subject for ridicule lately, and many will agree with Mr. Duff Cooper, the Secretary for War, in wondering why. He was speaking at a meeting called in support of the bursaries fund now being raised to help the Imperial Service College at

Windsor, of which Rudyard Kipling was the most famous Old Boy. As a matter of fact, old public-school boys do not wear the ties to which they are entitled very often; most of us turn them out of drawers only for such school functions as we happen to attend. The ridicule seems to arise from a curious inverted snobbery on the part of those who by some accident of birth or poverty have been deprived of the right to wear this particular piece of vanity.

PUNCH " is a national institution, bearing no obvious relation to any other journal in the world. In the traditional phrase, it is not what it used to be and never was. Those who have seen this week's issue with Bernard Partridge's cartoon of the hares and the British tortoise may be inclined to revise the verdict. At the beginning of the War Sir Owen Seaman, then editor, observed that "there is no place for *Punch* till this is over." Fortunately he proved a false prophet, and played a gallant part himself in showing that *Punch* is not so much a comic paper as a criticism, in the true sense of the word, of English life and character. But some of us wish it would not be quite so fond of ridiculing parsons and domestic servants. Such is the tradition, but not a helpful one.

HOLIDAYS WITH PAY are obviously far more attractive to people with small means than holidays without any money coming in to pay for them. In this respect the average workman has been less well off than the ordinary clerk; wages are apt to cease when no work is being done, while salaries continue even when employment is interrupted by a holiday. This is not, of course, an invariable rule, for in some industries there is a holiday wages fund contributed to by employers and employés alike and in others wages are still paid when the employé proceeds on a holiday. In an ideal world no doubt there would be holidays with pay for every kind of worker, whether manual or intellectual. But in conditions as they are in this far from perfect planet, the vital question is whether industry could stand the cost of giving its wages-earners holidays on full pay. Though the House of Commons has been considering a Bill dealing with this matter of holiday pay, the Government have taken the only wise course in appointing a Committee to make a thorough investigation of the whole complicated subject.

A PAGEANT of the Passion," entitled "The King of Glory," has been presented at the Albert Hall this last fortnight. Until the impersonation of Christ is allowed in this country, it will not be possible to present a wholly successful Passion Play, but Mrs. L. M. Shiner, who wrote the pageant, has overcome the main difficulty with great skill. The planning, grouping, and colour are excellent, and the Roman soldiers, by their fine physique and the magnificent simplicity of their attire, lend an added dignity and grandeur to the play. The Procession of Kings, in gorgeous robes and accompanied by many attendants, is impressive, the music well chosen, and the singing

excellent throughout. There are lovely voices among the soloists. Mr. T. C. Fairbairn is the producer.

"WISE TOMORROW," by Stephen Powys, at the Lyric, has the elements of a good play which, if acted vividly, could have a long run. Unfortunately, with the exception of Miss Churchill, the characters are colourless. Miss Martita Hunt makes Diana Ebury such an unpleasant woman that Miss Churchill's sacrifice of Peter at her request appears to be almost meaningless. Bobby Howes repeats his usual success in "Big Business," at the Hippodrome. It is a show of beautiful dresses, gay settings, and easy humour. Vera Pearce and David Burns, Bobby Howes and Wylie Watson are sure to play to "Big Business" for weeks to come. The show starts in a beauty saloon with Bobby Howes trying to sell a beauty treatment invention, and goes on hilariously through crossroads, drawing rooms, picture galleries, and exteriors of hotels to a gay climax.

THE CARLTON CINEMA and Mr. Frank Lloyd, who directed *Mutiny on the Bounty* and *Cavalcade*, among other pictures, certainly broke new ground last week with a film called *Maid of Salem*. Apparently in or about the year 1692 the village of Salem took it into its head to become witch-conscious, with the dire results that, when a couple of children told their elders that they had been bewitched by certain people, the parents believed them so whole-heartedly that they hanged the accused. The maid of Salem, however, escapes the ultimate penalty and lives to be reunited to her cavalier, who had been mistaken for the devil. She is also the last person to be tried in the state for witchcraft. We believe there may be a good picture to be made based on this subject, though it is not one which seems to be particularly appetising; but whether there is or not, Mr. Lloyd has not made it and, worse still, Claudette Colbert has not been so badly miscast since the unfortunate woman was made to play Cleopatra. Great things are expected of Mr. Korda's new effort, *Fire Over England*, which goes to the Leicester Square this week. I hope the expectations are realised; his last two or three productions have not taken the fancy of the public as did his *Henry the Eighth*.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES continue to fall, and the decline has been unexpectedly severe. There are a number of reasons for this, not least the fear of an increase, if small, in income tax and the fact, now recognised, that gilt-edged stocks reached an abnormally and unjustified level last year and in 1935. Those who sold out in these years were lucky, but for those who put safety first, there seems no reason for selling at the present low levels. Brewery shares have also had a bad week; the prospect of some of the inevitable new taxation being indirect was responsible for this. There has also been almost a flood of new issues, several attractive to those prepared to risk something, but to others our advice is still to hold on and "count your blessings."

Leading Articles

RE-ARMAMENT AND THE WILL TO LIVE

FURTHER debate on the re-armament programme of the British Government leaves the situation exactly as it was in the beginning. Here we see the odd and ill-assorted Opposition, willing to wound and yet afraid to strike. Indeed, the campaign of Opposition was still-born in itself. It may be reasonable to suppose that the British voter has the most muddled mind ever created or sanctioned by the Almighty. But it must surely be imagined that even this mind is capable of some intelligent thought. And the British voter has been asked to watch the most extraordinary antics ever exhibited by a comic contortionist.

The politicians who oppose, on various and often self-contradictory grounds, these measures of re-armament are the very politicians who seek continually to involve this country in dog fights over the quarrels of other people's dogs. They have their rather misty notions of idealism, and they are not to be blamed for that. They wish ardently to prevent Japan from making inroads into China. They had the strongest possible objection—shared by a great many other people—to Signor Mussolini's policy of finding pretexts for embroiling the unfortunate Emperor of Abyssinia in a quarrel with Italy and then launching against him aggressively the whole military power of a modern state. They never grow weary of insulting the said Signor Mussolini or Herr Hitler or General Franco or any other national or military leader who holds opinions and takes actions which are at variance with the politics and philosophies of Communistic Socialism.

Thus these hot-headed pacifists allow their prejudices to lead them to the utterance of loud cries of "No" whenever their pet aversions say or do anything in Europe or the Far East. What has been the result? They and the country in which they make far too much noise have been reduced to ridicule and contempt. The wretched dupes who have been deluded by these noisy professions have come to a sticky end. Very few tragic-comedies in British history and in all its "sad stories of the deaths of kings" have involved us in so much dis-honour and absurdity as the affair of Abyssinia. Even at this very moment we have to listen patiently while Italian newspapers heap nonsensical insults on us because the British Government has dared to invite the ex-Emperor of Abyssinia to send a representative to the Coronation. As if any single man in any single British street cared one hoot whether either Abyssinia or Italy were or were not represented on this intimate occasion!

And why have these professed champions of their own conceptions of right and justice involved the rest of us in their own humiliations? Because the League of Nations in which they confide proved utterly useless, because the slogan of "collective security" was seen to be a sham, and, most of all,

because we had no armed strength with which to reinforce our opinion.

It might have been supposed that these painful lessons would have induced the Opposition to howl for the very largest armaments or, alternatively, to keep civil tongues in humble heads. Not at all. They still cry as loudly as ever whenever one of their bogies raises its head and at the same time they oppose the provision of the only means by which they could ever make their policy effective. Even so, their opposition is niggling and half-hearted. They have their eye on their own constituents. They know that the men who are employed and who see great prospects of employment in shipyard and factory in consequence of the re-armament programme do not wish it to be opposed. They know also that these same men, in their character as British citizens, do not want to live any longer at the mercy of foreign insults and in the shadow of national and imperial defeat.

Thus the debates in Parliament have been time-wasting and unreal. It has been much more to the point to study the opinions expressed in foreign and imperial newspapers, and to watch the subtle changes of head, if not of heart, produced by the realisation that this country is in deadly earnest, and that it has untouched resources, in money and material and skill and courage, for which many other nations, who have dissipated their own before the real struggle had begun, would give the eyes of their head.

We are only at the beginning. We have only the framework of a five-year plan and the still vague outlines of a gigantic programme. The work has to be done, the goods have to be delivered, and the Government has to pass through an increasing barrage of anxious criticism. This is right and necessary. A blank cheque will be denied by the most ardent advocate of re-armament. There are already disquieting hints of profiteering and clear instances of what seems needless delay. The affairs of the Navy have not yet presented any great difficulties or caused any particular dissension, and Sir Samuel Hoare is to be congratulated on an adroit efficiency. But when we come to the air, with all its opportunities for mismanagement and miscalculation both on the organising and manufacturing side, the watch dogs cannot be too vigilant.

As to the anti-air part of these proposals, they are at present so nebulous as to be non-existent. Nobody believes that we are even approaching a system of anti-aircraft defence, from the ground as well as by air, which can give us any particular comfort, and yet everybody realises not only that this is one of our most urgent problems but also that we have been fooled very easily whenever it has been considered. And how many citizens have had the smallest personal experience of any instruction or advice, of any attempted organisation for the safeguarding of themselves, their families, their houses, their cities, towns, or villages, in the event of war from the air?

And how about the Merchant Navy? If the Government have gone any distance beyond the pigeon-holing of reports from committees, they give no signs of it. They are said vaguely to be considering some sort of plan to save our Pacific ship-

ping and they have in preparation a bill to help the fishing industry. But these things, good or bad, are on the knees of the gods and, if war were to come, we should find that the decline of our tramp shipping and the ruin of our fishing fleets imposed an unimagined handicap on our military effort.

We are not out of the wood. But we are no longer stuck fast in it, and the recent debates have at least demonstrated the force and vigour of our national and imperial will to live.

SPANISH MOROCCO AND THE CIVIL WAR

THE desperate struggle in Spain between General Franco and the Madrid Government is bound sooner or later to cause repercussions of the most serious description in Spanish Morocco. But in order to understand the gravity of the situation we are compelled to examine the events that have taken place in North Africa during the present century.

In November, 1912, a treaty was concluded between France and Spain which formally recognised the right of the latter to occupy and administer her zone, a narrow strip of country on the Mediterranean coast, extending from Algeria on the East to a point near Larache on the West.

It was not long before Spain discovered that this zone presented a problem of great difficulty. The wild stretch of mountainous country only boasted some 766,000 inhabitants divided almost equally into the people of the Rif, and the people of the Jibala, but they were fighters to a man. Very different from each other in many ways, the Riffians a people of Berber descent, and the Arabic speaking Jibalis, were alike in their turbulence and aptitude for war. Trouble started at once, for Raisuli, an able brigand chieftain of Shereefian descent, quarrelled with Colonel Silvestre, the Spanish commander. The situation became acute and though Tetuan was occupied in 1913, and the Khalifate and High Commissionership established there, the outbreak of the Great War found the Spaniards fighting against the Riffians on the outskirts of Melilla, and a force of no less than 40,000 men engaged against Raisuli in the Jibala. All through the war desultory fighting took place, confusion becoming worse confounded through the fact that the Spanish councils were invariably divided, and while the diplomats attempted negotiation, the military commanders endeavoured to gain the day by force of arms.

In 1918, however, General Berenguer was appointed High Commissioner, and that able soldier and administrator, a student of the Lyautey system of indirect rule, at once made his influence felt. His position was a difficult one, as General Silvestre, whose impetuosity had in the past done the Spanish cause much harm, was nominated Commander-in-Chief on the Melilla front. At first all went well, for the forces of General Berenguer in the Jibala occupied Sheshawen, a city founded by the Andalusian Moors expelled from Spain, and the surrender of Raisuli, who had retreated to a mountain fastness in the West, appeared to be imminent. Unfortunately, Silvestre regarded the

High Commissioner with considerable jealousy, and he, in spite of the counsels of his superior, advanced into the Rif with the utmost rapidity in an attempt to emulate the successes gained in the Jibala. The army was ill-equipped, the tactical position unsound and owing to the fact that the only connection with Melilla was by sea, the High Commissioner from his headquarters at Tetuan could exercise but little control over the dashing general who had determined to occupy the whole of the Rif.

It was at this moment that a great man, Si Mohamed Ben Abd El Krim, played havoc with Spanish pride and ambition. The well-educated son of a chieftain of the Beni Uriaghel, he entered Spanish service at Melilla and served faithfully until, as the result of a quarrel with General Silvestre, he was thrown into prison. On his release he retired to the Rif mountains and raised the standard of revolt, the war-like tribes answering the call of the Jihad with the utmost enthusiasm, so that he was able on the 21st June, 1921, to attack the important Spanish post of Anual. So desperate did the situation soon become that a withdrawal was ordered, which soon degenerated into a rout; post after post fell, and thousands of men, including General Silvestre and his staff, were massacred; out of an army of 20,000 men a mere handful reached safety in Melilla.

The Spanish Government fell and General Primo de Rivera, the chief of the new Directorate, was courageous enough to order a general withdrawal of all advanced forces. From then onwards Abd El Krim became the uncrowned king not only of the Rif, but, after he had captured Raisuli, of the greater part of the Jibala also.

Then, in 1925, carried away by ambition, he attacked the French, and it was only after a most arduous campaign that he was driven back into the Rif where he was captured following combined Franco-Spanish operations.

At last the warriors of the Rif, who had suffered terrible losses were disarmed, the whole of their country was occupied, and, as a result of the tactful and moderate attitude of the Spaniards, they soon became conciliated. Thousands of rifles were collected and the men of the Beni Uriaghel, who had fought so stoutly, now entered Spanish service and proving thoroughly reliable, helped to pacify the Jibala. Since then there has been no further trouble in Spanish Morocco, and the Riffians, completely disarmed, have abandoned the system of blood feuds that used to make life so precarious.

The Riffians joined the Infantry; cavalry regiments were raised in the Jibala, and both arms soon became remarkable for their smartness and discipline, in pleasing contrast with the Spanish troops. Only last summer, while travelling in the Rif, I was immensely struck by their appearance.

The extent to which the Spanish officers and officials had gained the confidence of the Riffians and Jibalis is shown by the fact that when General Franco raised the standard of revolt in July last year the Moorish troops were with him to a man, and have since displayed bravery and fidelity fighting for the Cause.

But there is bound to be a spirit of unrest in

Morocco owing to these events, and until the Spanish War comes to an end there must be continual danger of one of the most remarkable achievements in history—the making of modern Morocco by Marshal Lyautey—being undone.

F. H. MELLOR.

THE FUTURE OF HUNTING

DURING the recent wet weather the Joint-Masters of the Warwickshire Hounds have found it necessary to issue the following appeal to subscribers: "Owing to the very wet state of the ground, subscribers are asked to take great care to avoid doing unnecessary damage. Particular care should be taken to avoid riding over seeds or sown arable land, and, wherever possible, headlands and tracks should be used." This particular notice is, in effect, a general appeal against an ever present menace to the future of fox-hunting—the carelessness of regular subscribers and the frequent ignorance of visitors. For it is only by the friendly co-operation between a Hunt and the farmers who own the land and coverts that hunting can continue.

The frequent change of Masterships does more harm than is generally supposed. At the end of this season changes will occur in the Meynell and Wexford countries; Lieut-Col. O. Birkbeck is retiring from the Mastership of the West Norfolk Foxhounds, and the Hon. Anne Lewis and Miss Parkinson from the Joint-Mastership of the Monmouthshire Hounds. Such changes, and there are many of them, often take place because of health, economic or other unavoidable reasons, but it is none the less a thousand pities that they should have become so frequent. The all-important personal link between the Hunt and the farmers is lost, and the ideal state which existed between the late Earl of Yarborough and his tenants is becoming increasingly rare.

Many of the present difficulties are caused by the outlook of some of the new generation of fox-hunters. Formerly, hunting people nearly all lived for nine months of the year in the country, and took an active interest in the welfare of the countryside. But now a large number, especially those who hunt as visitors from London and other large towns, know absolutely nothing about the country, and their conduct in the field suggests that they care even less for the interests of the farmers. They cover farm hands with mud as they gallop through gates; they will scarcely say "Good Morning" to a hunting farmer; yet they ride over his seeds with the greatest composure. If all the farmers refused to allow hounds to hunt over their land, these people would cheerfully motor out to a neighbouring pack.

Many of them hunt simply for the ride, and any idea of assisting in the hunt or watching hounds at work never enters their heads. There have always been such people. Peter Beckford observed: "Gentlemen who hunt for the sake of a ride, who are indifferent about the hounds, and know little of the business, if they do no harm, fulfil as much as we have reason to expect from

them." The trouble to-day is that they do an enormous amount of harm. Masters should send such offenders home, for even if they lose a subscriber they will, at all events be preserving the Hunt.

But it is not only on hunting days that the future of the "image of war" is in danger. It is the rarest thing in the world for a farmer who breeds hunters to sell any of them in his own Hunt. Very often he sells them to a dealer, and the dealer sells them back to the Hunt. But prejudice has probably cost the buyer a hundred pounds extra. Here again, the interest of a hunting farmer, which should be kept as much as possible in his own Hunt, is inevitably directed elsewhere. It is scarcely credible that hunting people will rush up and down the countryside searching for horses, when they can buy an equally good hunter from men upon whose good-will the whole Hunt depends.

There are also frequent complaints from farmers that they cannot sell their hay and oats to their own Hunt. Here there is, admittedly, something to be said on both sides. Trussing hay is an art which not many farmers have the time to cultivate now, and many of them have great difficulty in the matter of transport. Unloading hay in the dead of a winter night is an experience through which no one would willingly pass. But if the farmers could count on a certain amount of support, there is no doubt that they could make better arrangements. As it is, they must sell their hay to a dealer whose long practice has brought the trussing of hay to a fine art, and whose steady business has enabled him to provide dry and punctual transport.

In both these questions of buying hunters and forage, what is at stake is not so much the farmers' personal profit. Financially it makes very little difference whether they sell to a dealer or to the Hunt. What does matter is that hunting farmers are to-day being assailed at two very tender points—interest and pride. Whether he can afford to hunt on horse-back or not, the farmer who has hunting in his blood has a strong interest in his local Hunt, and his pride is badly hurt when its members refuse to buy his hunters. It is also badly hurt sometimes when his children come in from hunting with stories of the rudeness they have encountered from subscribers. Possibly he remembers coming home to their grandfather with very different stories.

Hunting is being insidiously assailed on all sides. Anti-blood sports societies, building schemes and the astonishing indifference of hunting people to opposition all endanger the sport. It is essential for its continuance that the hunting community hold together and support each other in every possible way. It does not matter whether they ride or walk. One of the keenest fox-hunters I know is a barber, who hunts once a week in a car that cost him three pounds ten. It carries his entire family over the country, and his knowledge of the Hunt and its history is amazing. No one has ever been able to have his hair cut in the village on a Thursday.

ROBERT COLVILLE.

Books of The Day

THE BAD OLD DAYS OF CRIME

IF the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth were, except for the disasters of the American war, a period of notable British triumphs by land and sea and considerable additions to the external possessions of the Crown, the glory that shone without was, as the Hon. Edward Cadogan points out in "The Roots of Evil" (John Murray, illustrated, 9s.), very far from being accompanied by glamorous conditions within the King's own proper realm. It was an age of corruption and depravity in high places and of sordid misery and ever-growing lawlessness in the lower ranks of the people, when the politicians' "honour" could easily be bought and when the gin palaces and "flash-houses" flourished and Dr. Johnson could recall the fact that all the "decent" people of Lichfield became drunk every night and none were the worse thought of for that! Since neither the statesman nor the legislature had either the desire or time for measures of social reform, crime went on merrily increasing and Bishop Benton could write in the middle of the eighteenth century: "There is not only no safety of living in this town (London), but scarcely any in the country now; robbery and murder have grown

so frequent. Our people have become what they never were before, cruel and inhuman."

The inhumanity of the people had its counterpart in the inhumanity of the law: with no effective machinery for checking and detecting crime beyond that of "Charlies," Bow-street "runners" and unscrupulous "thief-takers," recourse was had to the extension of capital punishment to almost every class of offence and to public executions both for the edification of the masses and the supposed discouragement of the criminal. The prisons on land, the "hulks" moored in the Thames, the ships for deporting convicts first to Maryland and then to New South Wales and Tasmania, the early convict settlements overseas were all typical of man's inhumanity to man. For the removal of the prime causes of crime and the reformation of the criminal the eighteenth century framers of the law had not a thought. It was left to a few individuals, the two Fieldings, John Howard, James Neild, Elizabeth Fry and their successors, the Victorian novelists (particularly Charles Dickens), to bring about that change of attitude of mind towards crime and the criminal that is reflected in our penal laws and our prison administration to-day.

The story of the lurid past and of the various stages in the drama of reform is set out with a wealth of fascinating detail by Mr. Cadogan. Despite his long pre-occupation with Indian constitutional reform as a member first of the Simon Commission and then of the Joint Select Committee, Mr. Cadogan has never lost touch with a subject that at the very start of his political career elicited his keen interest, the reclamation of the young offender; and in this book, besides having many suggestive comments to offer regarding general methods of treating and curing crime, he devotes several of his pages to the question of the recent increase in juvenile delinquency. He attributes that increase to a number of causes: the greater amenities of life that require money to procure them, the latterday spirit of independence of parental control, the difficulty of securing regular employment and the disillusionment that results therefrom, and finally the materialistic outlook of modern youth. Among the remedies he puts forward to check the growth of the habitual offender is a shorter and more intensified Borstal training to be followed by a "buffer state" interval of camp life.

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The success of an autobiography does not necessarily depend either on the fame or the experience of life of the author. Serenity of outlook, sincerity, the revelation of character, the manner of telling the story may all be features that count with the reader and ensure his absorbed interest. And if there is any quality that has its strong human appeal in these times of earnest exhortation to observe the rule "Safety First" it is, paradoxically enough, the courage that scorns the injunction in selecting a way of life. We cannot all "live dangerously," and few of us are prepared to throw up the safe job and take to the road of adventure; but most of us are apt to have a sneaking admiration for those who do what we

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MACMILLAN

would not dare ourselves. It is this spirit of bold adventure that gives its distinctive relish to Mr. John Keir Cross's story of a young man's revolt against what he felt to be the soul-destroying fetters of modern civilisation ("Aspect of Life," Selwyn & Blount, 8s. 6d.). And apart from this it is a story that is very readable.

Another autobiography from the same publishers is that of the well-known violinist, Mr. Dettmar Dressel ("Up and Down the Scale," illustrated, 12s. 6d.). Mr. Dressel's professional career has brought him in contact with a vast number of distinguished persons both inside and outside the musical world and has served to accentuate rather than blunt a lively appreciation of the foibles of human nature. His book in consequence is a fund of rich entertainment. The style is easy and the store of amusing anecdote seemingly inexhaustible.

* * *

There is such a thing as splendid failure, and that must be to the credit of the youth of twenty-two who undertook the perilous adventure of trekking "Alone Across the Top of the World" (Robert Hale, illustrated, 10s. 6d.). Mr. David Irwin, the youth in question, had two main objectives in view in making this 3,600 miles journey in the Canadian Arctic: prospecting the copper-mine district and searching for records of the Franklin Expedition on King William Island. Neither objective did he attain; but his perseverance in continuing his journey from Nome, Alaska, to Churchill on Hudson Bay proved to the full his grit and capacity for enduring danger and hardship. It was, in fact, a moral victory for the youth whose sickly childhood had provoked the mocking laughter of other boys. But this personal aspect of his adventures merely lends additional interest to the story he has to tell of narrow escape from death, of joining a famous reindeer trek, and of friendly contact with Eskimo tribes. He spent some considerable time in studying the customs and language of the Eskimos, and his book reveals a sympathetic insight into the character of this Arctic people. For Eskimo and husky he had complete understanding and, for the rest, what impresses one in his narrative is his power of realistic description. Nothing could be more thrilling than the last chapter in his book, with rescue coming just when all hope seems lost and the young explorer has collapsed.

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Colonel Rodzianko started his enthusiasm for horsemanship as a young officer in the Russian Household Cavalry before the Great War. He had the advantage early in life to study under two great masters—Fillis, the originator of the scientific Haute Ecole, who graduated from the circus ring to the Directorship of the Russian Cavalry School, and the Italian Caprilli. As a show jumper Colonel Rodzianko won the King Edward VII Cup at Olympia three years in succession before the war. More recently he has proved himself to be a most successful teacher in the Irish Army Cavalry School. There can be,

then, no question of his qualifications to write a book on the gentle art of horsemanship. In "Modern Horsemanship" (Seeley Service, illustrated, 12s. 6d.) he deals with the whole subject exhaustively from horse management, schooling and hacking, down to polo, hunting, steeple-chasing and even swimming. It is a very practical guide that will be found to contain many valuable hints as to the care and training of the horse for all purposes to which it is put for the exercise, comfort and pleasure of its human owner and rider.

* * *

Two books that should have particular appeal at the present moment are issued by Messrs. Hutchinson. The first is a charmingly intimate study by an anonymous author of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth ("Our King and Queen," illustrated, 5s.). The other is "A Century of Buckingham Palace" by Mr. Bruce Graham (with 15 illustrations, 3s. 6d.). Mr. Graham has made a special study of the history of this Royal Palace and of the buildings that preceded it on the same site, and he has a most entertaining story to tell of the various transformation scenes enacted on the site, of the many changes in name, of George IV's heavy bill for "repairs," of William IV's dislike of the building and of Queen Victoria's decision to make it her London residence and to call it by its present name.

NEW NOVELS

From Messrs. Ivor Nicholson & Watson comes an Empire prize-winning novel that takes us back to the early pioneering days in Australia. It is called "The Valley of the Sky," and is by Mr. Tarlton Rayment. It has an epic quality in its recapture of the old heroic spirit of the pioneer who fought his way manfully through disappointment and hardship to ultimate triumph. And there is pathos, too, in this reminder of the past comradeship between white man and Aborigine in an age when the latter is fast dying out.

Comparatively little is known of the Elizabethan poet, dramatist and roysterer, Robert Greene, who has chiefly come down to posterity as the author of a contemptuous reference to Shakespeare—"in his own conceit the only Shake-scene." Mr. Carl S. Downes has now written what he calls "a fictional biography" of Robert Greene under the title "Robin Redhead" (Heath Cranton), and it is remarkable for its vivid reproduction of the Elizabethan scene, with all its lusty vigour both in speech and action. Historical novels often suffer from their author's imaginations being too closely curbed by the known facts of their heroes' lives, but in this case Mr. Downes has been able to give his imagination a free rein and thus create a real living personality.

The publishers' blurb attached to Miss Sadie Robinson's "Bacon and Olives" (Hutchinson) quotes Miss Naomi Jacob's verdict on it: "An exceedingly good effort for a first novel." With that verdict one has no hesitation in agreeing, for Miss Robinson's quiet straightforward manner of telling her tale of a clash of temperaments is most

effective in producing a sense of reality about her characters, their actions and their environment.

Miss Ethel Mannin is not always effective when she seems to be propagandising, but she has undoubtedly gifts as a novelist, and she is seen at her best in "Women Also Dream" (Jarrolds), which one has no doubt is destined to be a veritable "best-seller." It is an excellent tale on the theme that "all that Flecker stuff about men having their dreams applies to women too," and that dreams and reality are too often very different. Her heroine has her dreams and her romantic adventures and her unpleasant surprises, and Miss Mannin in vivaciously recording them treats her readers to many piquant maxims on life in general.

There is a poetic quality about Mr. D. J. Hall's writing that gave distinction to his first novel, "No Retreat." It is there also in his tale of an Englishman's spiritual awakening from the egoism which had coloured his whole previous existence—"The Perilous Sanctuary" (Harrap), the scene of which is laid in a district of New Mexico, where the religious beliefs of mediæval Spain still survive in the fanatical Penitente Brotherhood. It is to this "sanctuary" the Englishman comes as a fugitive from justice, to discover there both romance and terrible danger. A fine, impressive tale.

The grandchildren of Miss Naomi Jacob's Claudia, the heroine of "Time Piece," are the main characters of her latest book, "Fade Out" (Hutchinson), though Claudia herself also makes a reappearance in it with all her old caustic vigour. As in all Miss Jacob's novels, the story unfolds itself with a natural ease that conceals, while it also proves, her cunning craftsmanship.

Mrs. Kathleen Norris is a novelist whose fount of inspiration never shows any sign of running dry. She knows what her very large public wants and she goes on supplying it in a series of books whose number now reaches formidable proportions. In "Bread Into Roses" (John Murray) she presents her readers with yet another lovable heroine who has her storms and shocks to endure before an unexpected turn of the wheel of Fate leads her to happiness.

Quite a good and thrilling adventure story is "The Screaming Lake" of Mr. S. Fowler Wright (Robert Hale). This takes us through a swampy forest of the Upper Amazon to where dwells a descendant of the Incas with vast store of gold and jewels.

Those who found delight in Mr. J. A. Cole's "Come Dungeon Dark" will hasten to read his latest novel, "This Happy Breed" (Faber & Faber). In this comedy of two Socialist groups week-ending at a guest-house they will discover the same delicate irony, wit and humour as kept them entertained in the previous book.

Mr. P. C. Wren has gone to India's North-West Frontier for the scene of his adventure-thriller, "The Man of a Ghost" (Murray). It is a scene where life is very cheap and danger ever lurking for the unwary, and naturally Mr. Wren has no difficulty in providing his readers and his hero (a British officer turned Pathan) with every kind of exciting development to be expected in this unrestful part of the world.

Miss Elissa Landi is both a film star and a novelist, and this rather unusual combination no doubt materially increases her reading public. Her new book, "The Ancestor" (Hurst & Blackett), has for its heroine a singer who forsakes one man for another and then returns to her original love. It is a story not without considerable merit. Miss Landi can describe well the aspects of life she knows, and her pictures of the professional side of a singer's life in this book are particularly good.

Mr. H. H. Stanners sets his amiable American Professor who solved the mystery of the Markenden Court Murder another intriguing puzzle as to how a far from amiable Canon met his death when arranging a house-party Treasure Hunt. Of course, the Professor does find the solution in the end, but it is a difficult business and the reader of Mr. Stanners' story, "At the Tenth Clue" (Eyre & Spottiswoode), in following the various developments will have no cause for complaint that his or her own ingenuity as amateur sleuth has not been fairly and fully taxed.

Another murder mystery tale to please the elect among crime book fans is Mr. John Courage's "Death Goes to the Fair" (Stanley Paul). Here, too, the plot is well worked out, and the story pleasantly told, as one would expect from the author of "Four Doors to Death."

The superstitious inhabitants of a Spanish village were naturally prone to believe in the existence of a Werewolf as the perpetrator of a series of hideous murders in their midst. The mystery attaching to these murders forms the exciting story of Mr. Norman Berrow's "It Howls at Night" (Ward Lock).

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

"A History of Jewish Literature," Vol. 3, by Meyer Waxman (Bloch Publishing Co., New York); "Meditatio Medici," by W. Cecil Bosanquet (Gale & Polden, 7s. 6d.); "The French Quarter," by Herbert Asbury (illustrated, 18s.), "Secret Diplomacy," by J. W. Thompson and S. K. Padover (illustrated, 12s. 6d.) (both from Jarrolds); "The Land That Never Was: Trial and Trouble in Kenya," by Alyse Simpson (Selwyn & Blount, 8s. 6d.); "The University of Books," by Frank Swinnerton, Aldous Huxley, Rebecca West, R. A. Major and Robt. Lynd (Newnes, 1s.); "The Long Night," by Andrew Lytle (Eyre & Spottiswoode).

PUBLISHERS' PLANS

Among the books to be published in March will be the following: "The Home of the Hollands, 1605, 1820," by the Earl of Ilchester; "18th Century London Life," by Rosamond Bayne-Powell; "The Arts in Early England," Vol. VI, Part II, by the late Professor G. Baldwin Brown—all from John Murray. "Envoy Extraordinary," by Edmund B. D'Auvergne; "Divide the Desolation" (novel about the Brontes), by Kathryn J. MacFarlane, and "Six Marriages" (novel), by Florence A. Kilpatrick—from Harrap. "Here They Come," Memories by Eric Rickman (Robin Goodfellow of the *Daily Mail*)—Routledge.

Round the Empire

CLEARING THE AIR

THE debate in the House of Lords last week on Lord Noel-Buxton's motion advocating the extension of the Mandate system and the revision of St. Germain Convention should have served the useful purpose of clearing the air of some of the fog enshrouding the Government's policy towards Germany. There can be no doubt at all that the Government's apparent disinclination to take the public into their confidence on the subject of Herr Hitler's demands has had the most unfortunate results. It has started all sorts of wild rumours; it has created anxiety among the populations of colonial territories that seemed likely to be affected by the "gesture" the Government was reported to be contemplating; it has caused considerable uneasiness in the ranks of the Government's own following; it has undoubtedly helped to raise false hopes in Germany and a certain amount of trepidation among Britain's war-time Allies; and it has afforded endless opportunity for every kind of crank and sentimentalist to put forward their own ideas for establishing a new Heaven and a new Earth. The "sealed lips" attitude has once more proved to be singularly fatuous and one can only hope that the Government now realise the full extent of their folly.

As for these splendid schemes for winning Germany's gratitude at the expense of the King's colonial subjects and for giving distracted Europe a lesson in the blessings of Internationalism by a wide extension of the Congo Basin Convention, Lord Plymouth, speaking for the Government, had little difficulty in exposing their many weak points. How, he asked, was it possible to reconcile our Colonial doctrine of trusteeship with either the surrender of the King's colonial subjects to another Power or any financial arrangements that might subsequently prevent the grant of full fiscal autonomy to the Colonies affected? The extension of the Mandate system and the Congo Basin Convention to our Colonial territories would in no way help Germany or Europe as a whole; it would solely benefit Japan who, as he was able to show by a few striking figures, had enormously increased her trade in recent years with all the Mandated and Congo Basin territories. The completely "open door" policy that had been advocated would, in short, only favour trade with those countries which had "an exceptionally low level of labour costs," and the Government was not disposed "to admit that the play of blind economic forces should be allowed to play havoc with established political and industrial systems"—an announcement that was rightly greeted with cheers.

In Germany, Lord Plymouth went on to emphasise, had no particular desire to see the principle of "free access" extended throughout the world. She was doing a very considerable trade with the British Empire and that trade was on the increase. What she might be assumed to want "on the economic side"—Lord Plymouth tactfully omitted

the "other side" of prestige and equal status—was something very different from anything his noble friends had proposed. It was "some arrangement by which some colonial territory might be included within the German currency area and, in present circumstances, within the area of the German exchange restrictions." Having offered that assumption, Lord Plymouth forbore to comment on it—presumably because the German claim is wholly incompatible with the arguments he had already advanced on the subject of trusteeship.

The Government's policy, whatever it may have been in the not very distant past, now seems to have crystallised into a definite refusal to consider any question of colonial rendition or modification of colonial administrative and fiscal arrangements for the sake of securing German co-operation in the cause of world peace. That is all to the good, for there are other and far better ways of attaining that very desirable end than that of permitting foolish sentiment to dig into the very foundations of our own Empire. The best and most fruitful line of approach for the settlement of Germany's economic difficulties at least is, as Lord Plymouth said at the end of his speech, to be sought in the deliberations of the Committee on Raw Materials which will shortly be meeting in Geneva. Germany's "prestige and status," but not our own, might be heightened if we proceeded to rob our own Peter to pay the German Paul.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S PLIGHT

It is high time we had authoritative information on the present conditions in Newfoundland, and it is to be hoped that some enterprising member of the House of Commons will before long put the necessary questions to the Secretary of the Dominions Department. Is it or is it not a fact that a quarter of the whole population of the island is in receipt of relief and that the greater portion of the population of the 1,300 coastal settlements in Newfoundland are in a really desperate state of misery and poverty? Is it or is it not a fact that the Commission experiment is regarded by the great mass of the people of Newfoundland as a dismal failure and that the chief responsibility for that failure is attributed to the Dominions Office's hopeless lack of imagination?

We are aware that the general revenue of the island for the past year is the highest since 1929-30 and that, too, despite a reduction in taxation. But does or does not this increase in revenue reflect merely a prosperity that is confined to St. John's and the industrial districts? The yield from the fisheries, once the staple industry of the island, it is alleged, now allows for an exceedingly meagre net return to the 35,000 fishermen. Is it possible to increase that return by better organisation? Newfoundland has the largest iron ore mine in the Empire; it has also a prosperous lead and zinc mine, two thriving paper mills and a fairly large export business in pit props and pit wood. But is this the full extent of its possible mining and industrial development? And what progress has been made with land settlement projects? Finally,

if the people of Newfoundland are dissatisfied with the Commission Government, has the Dominions Office any ideas for an alternative form of administration?

AUSTRALIA AND A COMMON FOREIGN POLICY

There are encouraging signs that Australian political parties are steadily approaching the realisation that they must agree on a common foreign policy. Such an agreement would be a long step forward. It would mean that the Federal Government could, without suffering irritating delays, at once press on with the vital task of making Australia's shores less vulnerable to possible attack. It is not hard to envisage the evolution of a common plan on foreign policy by the conservative and radical elements in Australian politics. The Australian Labour Party is not, nor has it ever been, governed by a spirit of doctrinaire pacifism. It is a matter of history that the Labour Party was the author of the defence policy which led to the creation of an Australian Navy and the passing of a Compulsory Military Service Act. Again, it was a Labour Prime Minister who, soon after the outbreak of the Great War, pledged Australia "to the last man and the last shilling" in defence of British democracy.

Labour has necessarily developed since those days. Its radicalism is more pronounced, but the ideals from which its policy springs have undergone little change. On matters of Australian domestic policy, it differs, and must be expected to continue to differ, from the Government of the day. On the broader matter of foreign policy, the views of Australia's political parties should be easily reconcilable. The recent Commonwealth decision to strengthen coastal defences is a clear indication of the Government's attitude to re-armament. It is preparing for defence, not offence, realising that the most useful part it can play in the Imperial scheme is to relieve Britain of the obligation to defend Australia's shores in time of crisis. It is to be hoped that the Opposition parties will take the obvious lesson to heart and come half-way to meet the Government party in perfecting a policy which will represent the true will of all the Australian people.

NEW ZEALAND'S PUBLIC SERVANTS

The New Zealand Labour Administration suffered much criticism at the end of its first year in office. It was noticeable, however, that not even the bitterest of its enemies accused it of tardiness in putting its policy into political practice. It would be futile to pretend that the Savage Government did, in its first year, all that its supporters hoped for it when it came to office. Nevertheless, whether or not one accepts its political creed, it is impossible to deny that the Government has taken a series of long strides towards its objective of socialising—or "humanising"—life in New Zealand.

The latest big move towards the fulfilment of this policy is contained in the decision affecting retirement from the public service. The old system pro-

vided that public servants might retire at 60 and must retire at 65. The new rule provides that retirement shall be obligatory after 40 years' service or at a maximum age of 60. Naturally, conservative sections of the taxpaying community view the decision with some alarm. They feel, perhaps not without justification, that the Government has no right to expect the taxpayer to pay a pension to a public servant aged, say, 56, who is still capable of several years of useful work. Government supporters look at the question from a different standpoint. They argue that early retirement is more desirable in this modern age than ever before; that the strain of everyday life now entitles a man to spend his last years in leisure, without economic anxieties.

But there is one wry aspect to the question. Needless to say, it has not escaped the attention of the Government's political enemies. Mr. Savage, the Prime Minister, is aged 64. Will he, his critics ask, set an example to lesser public servants by retiring into obscurity?

SOUTH AFRICA'S GREAT FUTURE

The South African papers to hand by the current mail contain the full report of a highly optimistic speech by General Smuts looking forward to big changes that were coming to South Africa within the next fifteen years. South Africa, he predicted, would within that period be found occupying a place both in the British Commonwealth of Nations and in the world at large such as his audience, he said, had never visualised even in their dreams. But he also emphasised that the condition precedent to South Africa reaping the full harvest of the immense opportunities that were offering was the establishment of a sound immigration policy. "Our peoples," he said, "are too small. The stresses and strains which will be placed upon this small European organism are too great unless we increase our peoples from the best stocks in Europe. I think that every South African must look forward to our making the best use in that respect of the openings which will come our way. You cannot expect immigration in poor years, but the situation is different in conditions such as these. We simply do not have the human resources to do justice to this country. More and more we are feeling the strain. If we want to do justice to South Africa and make her take her place among the nations we shall have to open our door and increase the white population." Here once more is proof of Dominion readiness to fall into line with any Imperial policy of development and immigration that has a touch of real imagination about it.

EMPIRE TRADE

Figures which have just been made available for last December show that Canada purchased goods from Southern Rhodesia to the value of over £59,000, whereas in the previous December she had bought precisely nothing. At £52,000, too, her purchases from Ceylon exactly doubled.

All told, Canada spent during December £2,700,000 on Empire goods, an increase of nearly half-a-million pounds. The figure for purchases

from Britain was £1,700,000, compared with £1,450,000. Taking the Canadian buying as a whole, from foreign as well as Empire countries, it might be of interest to British exporters to note that the chief demand was for machinery, iron plates and sheets (almost all of which come from this country), electrical apparatus, coal, cotton yarn, wool and woollens and—a case surely of coals to Newcastle!—furs.

STAMPS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

As in so many other things, Great Britain led the world in the matter of adhesive postage stamps, the first ever to be issued making its appearance in British Post Offices on May 6th, 1840. Actually two stamps made their débüt simultaneously, a penny and a twopenny value being issued, but one of these, the far famed "Penny Black," has achieved such world-wide popularity as "the first postage stamp" that the perfectly legitimate claims of the Two Pence Blue are quite sublimated. These first stamps were severely simple in their design, merely representing a portrait of Queen Victoria, the word "Postage" and the value in words. It will be noted that the name of the country of origin did not appear. At the time of issue such an inscription was unnecessary as there were no other postage stamps, but when other countries followed our lead and issued stamps of their own, no attempt was made to include any national inscription in the stamp design. And so it is to-day, on no stamp issued by the G.P.O. has the name of our country appeared; some people are inclined to consider this as a slight on our national consciousness, but that is not so; it is a reminder to the world that they are still following Britannia's lead and that in the field of postal reform we were the first.

Large numbers of stamps have been issued from time to time in Great Britain. The halfpenny stamp was introduced in 1870, and in 1882 one of £5 denomination was issued. On the death of Queen Victoria, King Edward the Seventh took her place on our stamps, and then in his turn came King George the Fifth. It was during his reign, in 1924, that the first commemorative stamps issued in this country appeared. They were two in number, one 1d. and the other 1½d., and they were placed on sale to commemorate and advertise the British Empire Exhibition which was opened at Wembley in May of that year. To the left of King George's profile—all British postage stamps have incorporated the Sovereign's portrait—comes the inscription, "British Empire Exhibition, 1924," and beneath this appears a "Wembley Lion." The same stamps with amended dates were re-issued in 1925 for the exhibition of that year. These re-issued Wembley stamps are uncommon and eagerly sought after.

In 1929 the Ninth Congress of the Universal Postal Union was held in London. To mark this event a series of five postage stamps were put on sale. The four low values (½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2½d.) were of conventional design with suitable inscriptions, but the fifth, a £1 denomination, which was printed in black, displayed a graphic scene in British lore—St. George killing the Dragon.

The next and last commemorative issue made by Great Britain was the series of four stamps made in 1935 to mark the Silver Jubilee of His Late Majesty King George the Fifth. They were produced by the photogravure process, then recently introduced for printing our stamps, and were distinctly modern in design.

To return to ordinary issues, the last stamps issued by the G.P.O. were the ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2½d. with the portrait of King Edward the Eighth. The fate of these is the subject of much speculation at present, but no official statement has been made other than the assurance that in three months time we shall be able to go to the Post office and buy the stamps of King George the Sixth.

DOUGLAS ARMSTRONG
(Editor of "Stamp Collecting").

INDIAN CONGRESS AND OFFICE

The successes gained by the Congress candidates in certain of the Indian provinces, notably the United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa and Bombay, has inevitably brought into prominence the question will or will not the Congress Party decide to take office. At the Christmas gathering of Congress at Faizpur, no decision was arrived at on this all important point, the matter being left over to be settled after the results of the provincial elections were known. The Congress official programme, of course, is to do what can be done to wreck the present constitution and prevent the coming of Federation. But many of its members have agreed that the best way to effect these results is to take over all the provincial administrations that Congress possibly can and start the wrecking process from within the Executive itself. Pandit Jawarhar Lal, the Congress leader, would probably have much preferred to abstain altogether from taking office, knowing as he does what a temptation the sweets of office are likely to prove to many of his following. But already there are signs that office will be accepted and the Pandit himself seems marked out to be the first Prime Minister of the United Provinces, with a clear Congress majority behind him of 38. What a prospect for the United Provinces and its Governor!

CANADA'S INDUSTRIES

According to the latest banking report dealing with the economic conditions in Canada, manufacturing industries are definitely on the upward trend. This was especially noticeable during the latter half of 1936. On the whole, 6½ per cent more workers were employed last year than in 1935. According to the bankers' estimates, the working forces employed in making durable goods were 8 per cent. larger in 1936 than in 1935, while employment in the production of consumers' goods expanded by a little more than 5 per cent. Pig iron production by all Canadian plants during the past twelve months was 13 per cent. in excess of the total for the preceding year. Over the same period steel ingots showed an "upturn" of roughly 18 per cent. In all branches of the many industries in the Dominion there are signs that they are regaining the trade that was theirs before the depression.

Letters to the Editor

A WELSH CHOIR IN SURREY

Sir,—A small committee of residents in the Woking area have recently brought to a successful conclusion an effort to provide money to forward the good work of the Bargoed Educational Settlement in the Rhymney Valley, one of the worst of the distressed areas in South Wales.

The idea arose out of a visit by a Pyrford lady to Bargoed some months ago. She came back appalled at the hopeless conditions prevailing there, amazed at the courage of the inhabitants, and deeply impressed with the splendid work the settlement was doing in helping the people to help themselves.

But money is urgently needed to continue and extend this work. A small committee therefore was formed here, and it was decided to bring down a choir of unemployed miners and their wives and arrange for them to give a concert. We decided to take a bold course. The first idea of hiring a local village hall for the entertainment was abandoned, and a concert was given on a recent Sunday afternoon at the Odeon Cinema, Weybridge, and in the evening at the Astoria Cinema, Woking. We soon found that there was a plentiful supply of ready helpers. The proprietors of both cinemas placed their halls at our disposal for a nominal sum. The Rotary Club at Woking and Toc H at Weybridge staffed the cinemas, and gave invaluable help in distributing posters and hand-bills and selling tickets. The printers supplied us with posters, programmes, etc., free of charge, and the Government gave us exemption from entertainment duty. The sum raised by our endeavours was about £80.

Will other residential districts in and around London follow our example? They need have no fear as to the quality of the entertainment. The singing of the choir and the soloists was exquisite. Moreover, no one need be deterred from undertaking the task through lack of knowledge as to how to proceed, for I will gladly send to anyone willing to organise similar entertainments a memorandum explaining how we managed to overcome all the difficulties.

The Bargoed choir I know immensely enjoyed their visit to us, and our experience of them is a memory which we are not likely to forget.

R. ROY WILSON.

Wood End, Pyrford, near Woking, Surrey.

SCHOOLBOYS' SEA FARES

Sir,—It is often said, "If only America and England stand together, no nation dare attack them." It is true. At present relations between the two are friendly, but not friendly enough to ensure the peace of the world. Nor will they ever be unless we set out purposefully and persistently so to corroborate the bond that binds us that the world at large will recognise we stand for the same ideals, and not only so but we are prepared to uphold each other in maintaining them. This will not come by accident. We must work for it on

both sides. Nor will it come suddenly. There is much prejudice and ignorance to overcome. Cecil Rhodes made a move in the right direction by bringing his scholars to Oxford. The United States replied by establishing various post-graduate studentships for British Universities.

Now it comes to the schools. Three years ago some of the famous private schools of the United States invited a number of our public school boys to spend a year in their schools as boarders. Now some of our public schools are ready to reciprocate but would prefer, in the first instance, to have the boys at an earlier age.

Unhappily, there is an impediment. The shipping companies charge full fare for a child of 12. Rossall recently established Empire bursaries so as to enable sons of the Empire and English-speaking peoples to be educated in the home country. Some of these bursaries are not taken up. The reason given is this anomalous ruling which treats a boy of 12 as an adult. Nothing can be done till the Coronation is over. That is obvious. But could not something be done in time for selected bursary holders to start the new school year in September? Vacancies will not be scarce then on the home-bound liners. If this is feasible, it is none too soon to make the concession now and to publish it abroad.

J. L. PATON.

Kemsing, near Sevenoaks.

A BIRD SANCTUARY

Sir,—For years past it has been the earnest desire of those interested in the preservation of the avifauna of Great Britain that the wonderful stretch of shingle at Dengemarsh on the south coast of Kent should be secured as a Bird Sanctuary. It is the only considerable extent of coast now remaining on the South Coast, east of the Isle of Wight, where Terns can nest.

On this ground there is a long established Ternery which since 1904 has been, with the consent and co-operation of the owner, Mr. J. T. Blacklocks, carefully nursed and safeguarded by Mr. John Tart, the well-known Watcher of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Towards the end of 1936 proposals were on foot to utilise this land for the erection of houses. To avert this disaster, the Council of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has undertaken to purchase the 685 acres in question, at a cost of £8,250. Towards this there will be available £6,000 of the money recovered by the re-sale of Greatstones Sanctuary. Of the £8,850 realised by the re-sale, £2,100 has been utilised for the purchase of 280 acres known as the "Hoppen Pits" which adjoin Walkers Outlands, a property acquired by the Society in 1931. Walkers Outlands, the Open Pits shingle, and Dengemarsh together cover approximately 1,281 acres, and make a continuous chain of unique breeding grounds and winter resorts for rare wild birds. Such refuges are becoming increasingly few around the coast of Great Britain, and therefore the Council of the R.S.P.B. felt it imperative that Dengemarsh should be acquired. Schemes made possible by recent legislation are being prepared by the Society in conjunction with the Authorities

involved, under which these lands, covering an area of twelve hundred acres on the coast of Kent, may be saved from "development" and constituted a Bird Sanctuary for all time. It is hoped that ornithologists and naturalists will realise the importance of this purchase, and that donations will be sent to make up the £2,000 needed for its completion, whereby a real Bird Sanctuary of upward of twelve hundred acres will be established.

M. L. LEMON, Hon. Secretary.

*The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
82, Victoria-street, London, S.W.1.*

TOWN CLERKS AND M.P.s

Sir,—I think the attention of ratepayers and all concerned with the best interests of local government should be called to the increasing practice of town clerks in writing to their local members asking them to support some action or resolution of another member of the Association of Municipal Corporations.

This is being done at the present time in connection with the North Staffordshire Road Traffic Bill, which proposes large-scale municipalisation of road transport in the area concerned to the grave detriment of private enterprise and the whole system of traffic commissioners as established by law.

The Bill is being opposed by over 200 Conservative members of Parliament, and this attitude is probably shared by all who object to municipal trading which competes unfairly and unnecessarily with private enterprise. In such circumstances, this action of town clerks in blindly following the advice of the Association of Municipal Corporations and "lobbying" their members of Parliament in favour of such a Bill is surely open to the gravest criticism.

HOTELS

BAMBURGH, NORTHUMBERLAND.—Victoria Hotel. Rec., 3; Pens., 6 gns. Tennis, golf, shooting, fishing.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Clevedon Guest House, Magdalen Road. Tel. 2086. Nicely situated, with garden, near sea and shops. Good cooking. Assured quiet and comfort. From 3 guineas. Special Winter terms.

BRIGHTON (HOVE)—NEW IMPERIAL HOTEL. First Avenue. Overlooking sea and lawns. Comfortable residential hotel. LIFT. Central Heating, etc. Villa Sun Lounge. From 4 guineas. Special residential terms.

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I think, therefore, that all concerned with local government would henceforward do well to exercise great care before authorising their paid officials to write to members of Parliament in this way, recommending them to support or oppose Bills which have nothing whatever to do with their own areas and which raise important issues of principle.

LOUIS W. SMITH.

House of Commons.

TREATMENT FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Sir,—The British have a pronounced habit of disparaging their own institutions. In a recent address at a Rotary Club luncheon, however, Dr. J. H. Harley Williams, M.D., D.P.H., denounced the prevalent belief that the only effective treatment for tuberculosis was to be found in Swiss sanatoriums, and he advised anyone suffering from this disease to be treated in a sanatorium as near his own home as possible, as in this way change of climate was avoided and the patient was not entirely cut off from his family and friends.

Dr. Williams is Medical Commissioner of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and he ought to know. At all events, such statements are refreshing.

HUGH HAMMOND.

47, Priory Road,
Bedford Park, W.4.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE TOLL

Sir,—Can anyone tell me when the toll bar on Westminster Bridge was disbanded? Many years ago I recollect driving from Waterloo Station over Westminster Bridge with my mother and being stopped near the place now occupied by Boadicea, where a turnpike man issuing from a small shed in the centre of the roadway demanded and received the fee, 2d.

R. BENTINCK (Lieut.-Col.)

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Your Investments

BUDGET FEARS AFFECT PRICES

THE Chancellor's disclosure of the requirements of £1,500,000,000 for defence over the next five years, of which the Government plans to borrow only up to £400,000,000, has resulted in an early arousing of Budget fears. First, the gilt-edged market has been knocked completely flat at the prospect of additional taxation coupled with the feeling that rising commodity prices and the necessity for launching large long-term loans must mean dearer money rates. Since the beginning of the year the fall in British Government stocks has been appreciable. The 3½ per cent. War Loan has come down from 105½ to 102, 2½ per cent. Consols from 84½ to under 77, and 3 per cent. Locals from 96 11-16 to 89. War Loan now yields over £3 9s. per cent. flat or £3 8s. allowing for redemption, while the return on 2½ per cent. Consols, an "irredeemable" stock, is over 3½ per cent.

At these levels the returns on British Government stocks begin to compete with those available on some of the best-class industrials, and this fact has been recognised in the reaction in the prices of the latter. Courtaulds and Chemicals, for instance, have now been brought on to a 4 per cent. yield basis.

TAXATION POSSIBILITIES

The feeling in the City is that the Government would be perfectly well satisfied to stabilise gilt-edged interest rates on a 3½ per cent. basis, and for this purpose it is assumed that income tax is to be 5s. in the £ with some further unfavourable adjustments of surtax limits. But indirect taxation possibilities are now playing havoc with certain sections of the market. At the meeting of Imperial Tobacco Company, Lord Dulverton, the Chairman, went so far as to plead in advance against an increase in the Tobacco duty. The shares, not unnaturally, have fallen from well over £8 to 7½, at which they return the reasonable yield of nearly 4½ per cent. gross. Brewery shares have also become a miserable market, and even some transport and Motor shares have been affected by rumours of increased Oil and horse-power taxes. There are some who even forecast a tax on capital profits on the Stock Exchange, though with America's lesson before him it is hardly to be imagined that the Chancellor would launch out into such difficult waters.

What seems most likely is a Budget designed to give a fillip to fixed interest stocks and a damper to industrials dependent upon abnormal profits—

armament and similar shares. Thus a revival of the unsatisfactory excess profits duty in one form or another does not appear an impossibility, and the time is at least near at hand when gilt-edged stocks should rather be bought than sold. It is some time since one has harboured such a feeling, but the decline in gilt-edged in the past week has been sufficiently substantial to warrant reconsideration of the position.

NORTH-EASTERN RESULTS

The L.N.E.R. payment of ½ per cent. on the 4 per cent. 2nd preference stock was well up to expectations. For this purpose the directors took £50,000 from reserve, as previously, and took credit to the extent of £755,000 for the reduction of rates and rate relief attributable to the year 1936. The full dividend is paid on the 5 per cent. redeemable preference and the 4 per cent. first preference, which received only 4 1-16 per cent. and 3½ per cent. respectively a year ago. The last dividend the 2nd preference received was 1 per cent. for 1931. The 1st preference stock, which yields about 5½ per cent. at its present price, is an attractive semi-speculative Home Railway stock. Home Rails are completely subdued by wages dispute prospects and by the weakness of gilt-edged, but there should be a profit for those who buy at present prices.

WALL-STREET ATTRACTIONS

The reports of the investment trust companies, which are well worth following as investment guides, show that many of the very shrewd managements of the trusts are placing more and more faith in American securities. Those who did so some time ago have been amply rewarded already, for U.S. Steel, now at 114, have come up almost without a setback from 50, at which price they were recommended in these columns not many months ago. Nickels, now over 74, have also been a favourite here, and they still look good for a rise, while New York Centrals at 47 still look the best of the Rails. Such are the attractions of Wall-street for the British investor that Mr. Roosevelt is considering a vastly increased transfer fee to discourage the influx of funds into the U.S.A.

It is amusing to read in a British daily newspaper that London will soon be the only unrestricted market for investment. We can hardly expect Americans to place their money here when they are called upon to pay income tax at 4s. 9d. per £ of its earnings. The time is coming, however, when all international restrictions on investment, at least between this country, the U.S.A. and France, must be removed. Mr. Clifford Johnston, chairman of a number of investment

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trusts, drew attention to the impossibility of combining rising commodity prices, "managed" low rates of interest, and an export trade revival, at the meeting last week of Guardian Trust. There seems no reason why money should not flow freely into countries where it could earn satisfactory interest.

A DIAMOND SHARE TRUST

Since the shares of Anglo-American Investment Trust were last mentioned in this column the price has risen from 53s. to 62s. In the meantime, however, the prices of the Trust's holdings of De Beers and other diamond interests have also shot up, so that in proportion to the market valuation of De Beers deferred, for instance, "Anglo-Trusts" still appear cheap. The company is in its first year and is a pure speculation, but it is significant that a number of knowledgeable people are selling De Beers in favour of a purchase of "Anglo-Trusts."

COURTAULDS RESULTS

It is significant that after many years of tax-free dividend payments the directors of Courtaulds Ltd., the rayon manufacturers, should have decided to declare dividends less tax. For 1936 the payment is to be 7 per cent., making a total gross rate for the year of £10 5s. 7d. per cent. against £9 16s. 8d. per cent. for 1935. Profits amounted

to £2,391,458 against £2,203,000 for 1935, quite a satisfactory year's working.

MAD METALS

The fears of larger taxation have led to the most unhealthy speculation in Metals and Metal shares of all kinds. The rise in the prices of Metals themselves is not by any means unjustified, though the rise of nearly £14 per ton in Copper to nearly £70 per ton since the Defence Expenditure disclosure is rather too hot a pace. Lead and Spelter are both over £30 per ton, and Tin has climbed up to over £250 per ton. It is doubtful whether the Tin price can be held, though the others metals' statistical position fully justifies the confidence of the market that an immediate severe reaction is unlikely. Meanwhile, those of a speculative turn of mind who have followed the advice given in these columns to buy Copper and Tin shares may be doubtful whether they are still bound for higher prices. Certainly, Tin shares appear to be undervalued in most cases, and such shares as Pahang, Malayan and Tronoh are good speculative holdings both from the capital and income standpoints. Roan Antelope Copper at 85s. give a huge profit which may well prove tempting, and holders of Rhokana at nearly £18 10s. might do well to exchange into Rhodesian Anglo-American, which at 41s. appear undervalued in comparison.

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